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LETTER DATED 27 OCTOBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GABON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter addressed to you by the President of the Gabonese Republic, His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo.

(Signed) Denis DANGUE RÉWAKA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 23 October 1997 from the President of the Gabonese Republic addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as mediator, representing the heads of State designated by the France-Africa Ouagadougou Summit of December 1996 to help find a solution to the Central African crisis, and on behalf of the Inter-African Force to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements (MISAB), I had addressed to you a letter dated 7 July 1997 (S/1997/543) requesting the adoption of a resolution approving the mandate of the Inter-African Force.

I welcome the understanding of the situation in the Central African Republic evidenced by the members of the Security Council over which you preside with great clear-sightedness and competence. Indeed, the adoption of Security Council resolution 1125 (1997), by which the Council approved the mandate of MISAB, served as a catalyst and facilitated the monitoring of the surrender of weapons by the former rebels, the militias and all other illegal holders of weapons.

The involvement of the Security Council in the search for peace in the Central African Republic was very well received by the people of the country. What is important now is to consolidate the peace by renewing the mandate of MISAB for a three-month period, for much still remains to be done to advance national reconciliation in the Central African Republic, a country torn by three rebellions in eight months, the root causes of which have not yet been fully dealt with.

Thus, the presence of MISAB contingents in Bangui continues to be useful and necessary, especially because there are known to be continuing tensions in the Central African subregion. I therefore wish to request, on behalf of all the heads of States with contingents in MISAB, that you take the necessary steps to extend the Inter-African Force for three months as from 6 November 1997.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) El Hadj Omar BONGO